

MIDNIGHT BATH AT TOBRUK

SCENARIO ASL TAC23 Translated by Coastal Fortress Gaming Group



VICTORY CONDITIONS: The British win as soon as they exit 20 VP (each DC counts as 1 VP, prisoners do not count) along the south edge of board 30 on/between I10 and Y10.

Northern beach of TOBRUK, September 14, 1942:

British high command in Cairo had wanted for several months to carry out a sabotage operation on the harbor installations of Tobruk and Benghazi, then in the hands of the Italians. In September, an ambitious commando raid was finally prepared. A first group, Force B, made up of 83 soldiers of Special (Boat) Service guided by men from Long Range Desert Group would penetrate the perimeter of Tobruk while being disguised as prisoners being escorted by the Germans. Another group, Force X, composed of SAS and led by Lieutenant-Colonel Stirling, founder of the LRDG, would attack by surprise at Benghazi in order to damage the port and the gasoline stocks. Finally, Force A, the largest group, would be landed north of Tobruk to move towards the city and carry out sabotage on the port. The whole operation rested on surprise and the certainty that the city defenses were held by inefficient Italian troops. As scheduled, on the night of September 14th, 91 planes bombarded Tobruk, releasing 70 tons of bombs as a diversion for the raid. Quickly thereafter, towards 0300 hours, Royal Marines of Force A loaded in barges and set out for the beaches.

BOARD PLACEMENT:

BALANCE:

III Add an 81mm mortar and crew to the Italian OB



26	EF3
H1	EF2 H3
X4	X1 X5

III ITALIAN sets up first	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	END
© BRITISH moves first									

Elements of the "San Marco" Division of marines [ELR:2] set up on board 30 {SAN:3}



4-4-7	5-2	8-0	6-12	4-10	2-5	45-12-13
16	2	2	4	2		
105	47	20L(4)	81* (3-102)	2-2-7		
2	2		6			

15 or Gun GBA: +3+ Other: +1+	OUR, GBA: +4 Other: +2	1+3+5
6	12	4

First wave of the 11th Royal Battalion Marines [ELR:5] set up 8 hexes from the north edge of the ocean overlay {SAN:0/2}:



6-4-8	4-5-8	5-2	8-0	2-7	1-12	30-1	+2 4 0
3	3					2	4

Second wave of the 11th Royal Battalion Marines [ELR:5] set up 4 hexes from the north edge of the ocean overlay:

6-4-8	4-5-8	5-1	8-1	8-0	2-7	1-12	5mm	30-1	+2 4 0
3	9				3	3	3	3	8

Scenario Design: Jean-Paul Gonçalves and Jean-Luc Béchenne '92

SSR:

- EC is moderate with a Mild Breeze which blows from the south. Night rules are used. The NVR is 4 hexes and there is no cloud cover.
- Place the following overlays on Board 26: Be4 with 465-471 on EE9-FF8, Be5 with 565-571 on S9-T8, Be6 with 652-652 on G9-H8, Ef3 in L10-L9, OC3 with 3130-3143 on 463-469, OC2 with 2117-2130 on 563-569 and OC1 with 1143-4456 on 663-669. Place the following overlays on board 30: H1 on I2-J2, H3 on R2-R3, H5 in Z2-AA2, X1 in P8 (the cliffs and the hill do not exist, the TEM is +3), X4 in F9, X5 in V8, Ef2 in N7-N8.
- Board 30 undergoes Pre-game bombardment.
- The Italian guns must set up in Sangars.
- The British Sniper is placed on the board at the end of the turn where 1 British MMC sets foot on the beach, and the SAN raises to 2. Before that the SAN is 0 and is not increased by night rules. The landing barges are neither armed nor armored.
- The beach has Moderate Slope (G13.22).

AFTERMATH: Under cover of the naval guns of the destroyers HMS Sikh and HMS Zulu, the commandos reached the beach but encountered a stiff and unforeseen resistance. In fact, the town was controlled by the Italian San Marco Division, marines troops considered as some of the best troops of the Duce. The Royal Marines advanced with difficulty against these combative Italians whose machine-guns swept the beach. Moreover, the destroyers were soon fired upon by coastal guns and had to retreat. On the ground, a few commando squads managed to emerge from the beach but soon were forced to surrender, small group after small group. At dawn, HMS Zulu attempted to come back to support the assault but was sunk by Axis planes intervening from Crete and North Africa. The ambitious operation ended in failure, with the loss of 280 sailors and 300 Royal Marines wounded, killed or captured.